

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Surgery of the nose (rhinoplasty) is an operation frequently performed by plastic surgeons. This surgical procedure can produce changes in the appearance, structure, and function of the nose. Rhinoplasty can reduce or increase the size of the nose, change the shape of the tip, narrow the width of the nostrils, or change the angle between the nose and the upper lip. This operation can help correct birth defects, nasal injuries, and help relieve some breathing problems.

There is not a universal type of rhinoplasty surgery that will meet the needs of every patient. Rhinoplasty

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surgery is customized for each patient depending on his or her needs. Incisions may be made within the nose or concealed in inconspicuous locations on the nose. In some situations, cartilage grafts taken from within the nose or from other areas of the body may be recommended to help reshape the structure of the nose. Internal nasal surgery to improve nasal breathing can be performed at the time of the rhinoplasty.

The best candidates for this type of surgery are individuals who are looking for improvement, not perfection, in the appearance of their nose. In addition to realistic expectations, good health and psychological stability are important qualities for patients considering rhinoplasty surgery. Rhinoplasty can be performed in conjunction with other surgeries.

## **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Alternative forms of management include not undergoing the rhinoplasty surgery. Certain internal nasal airway disorders may not require surgery on the exterior of the nose. Some nasal contour problems may be treated with temporary injectable fillers. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

## **SPECIFIC RISKS OF RHINOPLASTY SURGERY**

### **Damage to Donor Sites:**

Occasionally, the procedure will involve using cartilage or bone grafts taken from another site on the body. This adds risks that your surgeon will discuss with you.

### **Implants:**

An implant may be used in some rhinoplasty operations. Implants may become infected or exposed, requiring removal. This may occur at any time in the future.

### **Delayed Healing:**

Fracture disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the nose may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Areas of skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue.

### **Nasal Septal Perforation:**

Infrequently, a hole in the nasal septum will develop. The occurrence of this is rare. Additional surgical treatment may be necessary to repair the nasal septum. In some cases, it may be impossible to correct this complication.

### **Nasal Airway Alterations:**

Changes may occur after a rhinoplasty or septoplasty operation that may interfere with the normal passage of air through the nose.

### **Substance Abuse Disorders:**

Individuals with substance abuse problems that involve the inhalation of vasoconstrictive drugs such as cocaine are at risk for major complications including poor healing and nasal septal perforation.

### **Cartilage Grafts:**

Cartilage grafts may be needed if the goal of surgery is to change the projection of the nasal tip. These grafts can be obtained from donor locations within the nose (nasal septum), from other parts of the body, or from tissue banks. Complications including nasal septal perforation may occur from the procurement of cartilage graft material. More than one location may be needed to obtain sufficient amounts of cartilage.